

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY PolandREPORT NO. 25X1TOPIC Military Information from Warsaw-Praga

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EVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

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DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 25X1DATE PREPARED 17 October 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 25 April 1950 a reconnaissance unit was located in a barracks installation on the western side of Ul. Lodlinska, about 1,500 meters north of the Bierut Bridge, the former Lower Railroad Bridge which is a large rail and road bridge. The barracks installation consisted of an old four-story building, 60 meters long, two new garages and a workshop. The unit had 450 to 500 men. A lieutenant colonel was the ranking officer. The EM were thought to be 18 to 20 years old and wore green collar patches with a black stripe.
2. The only arms observed with the reconnaissance unit were short infantry rifles. Twenty to 25 two-axle armored reconnaissance cars, about 20 jeeps, 10 radio cars resembling the German type, 5 trucks and about 10 motorcycles were observed in front of the garages. The armored reconnaissance cars had rounded corners and sloped upwards to the rear. They mounted a gun of about 45 mm caliber. The departure of two or three radio cars or two or three reconnaissance cars toward Modlin (R 53/K 71) was observed several times. \*
3. Prior to 25 April 1950 a militia unit subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior was located in Praga, occupying a cantonment in the area between the billets of the reconnaissance unit and the Vistula River. The cantonment consisted of three wooden barracks buildings, three ration supply buildings and one storehouse for PW clothing. It had a spur track running north. The unit had about 350 men and was organized into three companies. It was armed with rifles and sub-machine guns. One company carrying practice targets was repeatedly seen marching toward Modlin. Another company apparently detached small guard details. Militia guards were observed on the Bierut Bridge and other militia personnel worked in the ration storage buildings.
4. The ration supply depot served the jails and the PW bases. It was bordered on the northwest by a brick wall with barbed wire and by a board fence with barbed wire on the eastern and southern sides. The depot was guarded by the militia unit. Incoming shipments arrived by rail.

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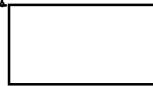
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5. [redacted] it had been decreed that all militia personnel had to have their blood type tattooed on their arms.

6. In January 1950 a Soviet major almost daily inspected the workshop of the militia jail. After mid-February 1950 the same major always wore a Polish uniform with Polish insignia. [redacted] and other Soviet officers belonged to a special staff organizing the militia.

7. [redacted] the Soviet embassy or a Soviet high-echelon office was in Warsaw-Praga. A Soviet infantry regiment was also said to be located in that city sector. Some PWs [redacted] had been working for the Soviets in Warsaw-Praga for about a year. \*\*

\* [redacted] Comment. The armament is indicative of a unit of the Corps of Internal Security.

\*\* [redacted] Comment. No Soviet troops have been reported to be stationed in the city of Warsaw or its vicinity.

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